

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 2-4 and 6-16. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 9 contains allowable subject matter; however, the remaining claims were rejected over the prior art. Specifically, claims 2, 6, 7, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Ohkubo et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,862,240. Claims 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ohkubo et al.* Claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ohkubo et al.* in view of *Sibbald et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,600,727.

Essentially, the Examiner's position was that *Ohkubo et al.* discloses a microphone device which reads on the sound recording or pick-up device for a public address system recited in the rejected claims.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth in independent claim 16, Applicant's invention provides a sound recording device in which a sound is emitted

from a sound source and recorded by at least two sound recorders arranged at a distance from a utility zone from which usable signals emanate so that the axes of their main receiving directions each point to a reference position within the utility zone, and directivity vectors pointing in different directions are placed between the respective sound recorders. The sound recorders are connected electrically or acoustically to a grouped summation facility for the amplitude of the signals.

The primary reference to *Ohkubo et al.* claims that the receiving directions of the microphones are all oriented in one direction with reference to the sound source. Applicant understands therefrom that the microphones in *Ohkubo et al.* are parallel to each other and do not point to a central point. In contrast, in Applicant's invention, as recited in claim 16, the microphones are not oriented parallel to each other but rather are concentrically oriented.

Ohkubo et al.'s FIG. 10 shows rays pointing from the microphone to the sound source. But it remains open whether

direction characteristics point thereto. The rays could also be distance indications.

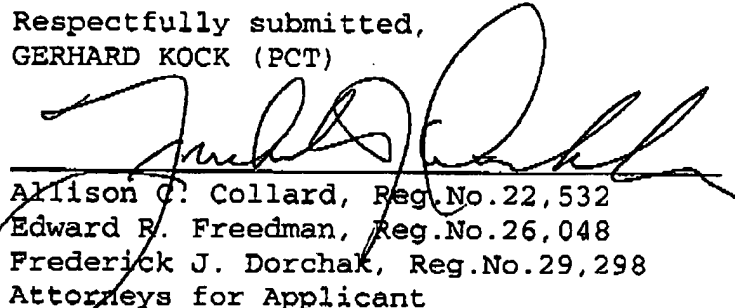
In addition, *Ohkubo et al.* does not show an addition circuit for the arrangement according to FIG. 10. True, in another place there are added signals in other circuits; however, these added signals have not been described in connection with *Ohkubo et al.*'s FIG. 10. Therefore, the drawing in *Ohkubo et al.* is incomplete and fails to give one of ordinary skill in the art any technical instructions regarding such addition.

The remaining reference to *Sibbald et al.* U.S. Patent No. 5,600,727 has been considered but is believed to be no more pertinent. *Sibbald et al.* contains no teaching that would lead one skilled in the art to derive the invention as recited in Applicant's claim 16.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this application case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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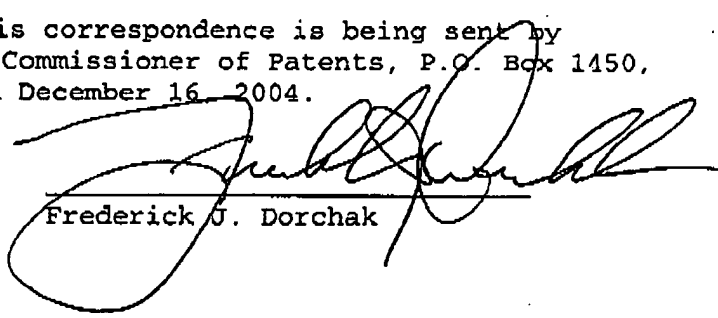


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